

Adult First Day School
June 20, 2021

On "fixing the world"



Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. (Thank you Clarissa Pinkola Estes)

I love the story Sue Monk Kidd wrote about her daughter, coming home from school in early December, telling her mother she got one of the great parts in the Nativity Play.

"What part did you get?"

"I'm the Star of Bethlehem!" the daughter says proudly.

"Well, what will you do?" Sue asks.

"I just stand there and shine."

The little girl gets it. At some point, from the Star of Bethlehem to adulthood, we obstruct the light inside—with restrictor plates, with fear, with a need for perfectionism and with prejudice.

We forget that letting the light spill is what mends the broken places around us.

That takes us back to the Marianne Williamson's reminder, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us."

I'm nodding in agreement. You see, that wasn't wired into me, as I was always afraid that "shining" smacked of self-importance or haughtiness. Ironically, it was considered "un-Christian". How very wrong I was.

Because here's the deal: shining is not about putting on airs or pretending to be something I am not. It is to be unafraid of our beauty (the imago dei/image of God) that lives inside.

Know this, when our well-being is all about how we perform or impress or merit, we put restraints on our heart.

So. I'm with the little girl: I just stand there and shine... in other words, I want to be present. I give of this self, this whole self, to this day.

Quote for your day...

"This morning, as many looked up at the sky, the moon passed in front of the sun creating a beautiful sight to behold — The Ring of Fire Eclipse. Let this be a reminder to us all that things are not always as they seem. The moon obstructed the light of the sun, only allowing a fraction of its light to shine. Let us hold this lesson in our hearts and apply it to the people around us. Although we might feel like we know what people are going through, we often don't know the entire story. We might only know the parts they choose to reveal, the parts they choose to let us see. Have compassion and empathy for the entirety of who they are, even if you only ever see a sliver of who that person is. Let us all shine like the sun if we choose to, but know that we can absolutely reveal what we want in our own time." --Maria Shriver

Here's our Prayer Blessing...

May the blessing of light be on you--
light without and light within.

May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,
so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.

And may light shine out of the two eyes of you,
like a candle set in the window of a house,
bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.

And may the blessing of the rain be on you,
may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines,
and sometimes a star.

And may the blessing of the earth be on you,
soft under your feet as you pass along the roads,
soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day;
and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it.

May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly;
up and off and on its way to God.

And now may the Lord bless you,
and bless you kindly.

Amen.

~ Old Scottish Blessing